

GEOLOGY No. 3.
Translated from the German of Leonhard
for the Democratic Press.

INFUSORIA
Further increase by the bad formation—since, as it were, a new individual creature as a layer shoots forth out of the old—as well as the self-division, whereby, in the body, a notch appears, which ever cuts deeper and deeper until both halves fall from one another, and quickly new individuals are completely formed. All these methods of increase put together, the vast extension and multiplication of certain species in both continents are easily comprehended, since the multitude of these animals are so nearly infinite, so huge that we can scarcely imagine their mass of life. They are to be found in all the waters of the earth, but we do not meet with them in similar thick masses, in all places and at all times.

At present about a thousand species of Infusoria are known; of these, however, only fifty kinds at most are found to be greatly extended and living together in large numbers. Most of them remain invisible to the naked eye, or appear only as movable points. The largest of them scarcely reach a line in diameter, and the smallest, seen through a microscope, have a diameter only of a two thousandth part of a line. At the lowest estimate, an extremely clear magnifying glass three hundred times is necessary in order to bring the little creatures to a distinct view, or to a conviction of their real existence.

INFUSORIA.
These mineral bodies, consisting almost wholly of silicious earth, whatever may be their form and color, as their fracture and finely divided leaves prove, contain infusorial shells and coats of mail in vast multitude. In the freestone of Deltsch, between Wittenberg and Leipzig, we meet with such remains of known kinds, and doubtless with species almost even now existing, whose forms are remarkable and peculiar; some of the same bear a strong resemblance to the light animalcules of the Baltic Sea, described by Ehrenberg.

In the semipalm, which occurs in the region of Biffin, in Bohemia, are found infusorial remains, together with large quantities of translucent silicious needles.

POLISHING SLATE.
This yellowish white and very soft stone, having a fine earthy nature, consists of very small and beautiful infusorial coats of mail. In Trippe, near Kuden, not far from Biffin, a bed of polishing slate occurs, which has a thickness of about four feet. It occupies the summit of the hill as well as a portion of the slope. Here we distinguish seven species of infusoria, among which the gallionella predominates. Gallionella live very numerous in sea water; they possess simple or two-shelled coats of mail. The polishing slates of Planitz, in Saxony, as well as those of Habichtswalde, near Kassel, are masses of infusorial shells. The polishing slate of Oran, in Africa, consist of key or honeycomb-formed bodies, having a very regular cellular structure, produced by silicious organisms; it also contains impressions of fish.

KIEZELGUTH.
The silicious deposits, such as are found near Santa Flora, in Tuscany—also at Kymene Gard, in France, near Degenevons, on the Lapland border, and on the Isle de France—are almost wholly formed of infusorial coats of mail. In the localities above named the species prove to belong partly to the living party to extinct races.

INFUSORIAL STRATA IN THE LUNEBURG HEATH.
Through examinations by boring, which were made some years since near Oberrie, on the southern border of the Luneburg Heath, six places, more or less distant from one another, have been found, containing each a stratum of fine silicious earth. The same stratum, having a breadth of at least 250 paces, has been exhibited, composed almost entirely of well preserved infusorial coats of mail, belonging to very various yet known species, living at the present day, and in fresh water. The stratum, whose upper portion is found to be white, remarkably light and very loose, while the greater mass of it lower down appears brownish gray, possesses a very considerable thickness; it was not cut through at the depth of twenty-eight feet.

STRATA IN NORTH AMERICA, CONSISTING OF BACILLARIA COATS OF MAIL.
In the State of New York, at the foot of the elevation on which Fort Putnam once stood, a considerably extensive stratum, ten inches thick, occupies the soil of a drained marsh, which is wholly formed of *Bacillaria coats of mail*. These are *infusoria*, with simple silicious coats of mail, and are easily separated into zigzag-formed radiating chains, hooked with one another, having by means of elastic limbs, the power of locomotion, and were for a long time regarded as plants, and were reckoned among the sea weeds. These and several species nearest related to them, in spite of their small sizes, must be regarded, among all animals, as those having agencies of very high geological importance, since, in the course of time, the same are in the condition, out of their remains, by the decomposition of the organic portions, to compose deep and vasty-extended earth strata; other species afford from ore deposits.

Furthermore, in many localities in the United States, beds of infusoria have been reported. They, for the most part, take their position immediately below the turf.

INFUSORIA BEDS UNDER BERLIN.
In a large portion of the chief city of Prussia, along the shore of the River Spree, as excavations for walls have proved, the ground consists of strata of silicious shell infusoria, having a thickness varying from five to one hundred feet. These strata used to be regarded as the clay or turf formation, and houses were erected upon the same. Newly excavated, the mass appears gray, but when dried, it becomes white; it possesses, besides, the properties of the mountain-meal of Tuscany. In Potsdam, also, similar conditions take place.

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